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RECENT LOAN

WITH a group of paintings recently lent to the Museum by Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, all of which will receive notice in a later issue of the BULLETIN, is one of special interest in this year of Dutch interests. It is a portrait of Erasmus, the Dutch classical and theological scholar, painted by Holbein.

Mr. Claude Phillips in an article in the *Daily Telegraph* speaks of this painting as having been hitherto preserved among the most cherished possessions of the Howards of Greystoke, and refers to it as being quite as fine as the circular panel in the Basel Museum.

It is a painting in oil on a wood panel 7 x 5½ inches in size. Erasmus is shown seated half length against a flat blue back-

ground. He wears the dark cap and fur-lined cloak which is found in all his portraits and the expression of his face is placid and kindly.

A contemporary inscription at the back of the panel runs:

“ Haunce Holbein me fecit  
Johanne(s) Nonryce me dedit  
Edwardus Bauyster me possidit ”

John Norris or Norreys and Edward Banister were ushers at the Court of Henry VIII.

Many similar portraits of Erasmus by Holbein or his pupils are in existence, most of these being replicas of the miniature in the Basel Museum which was painted in 1530. Mr. Morgan's panel is quite similar to this type, but the general arrangement and the age of the sitter approach more nearly the example in the collection at Longford Castle, which is dated 1523.



PORTRAIT OF ERASMUS. BY HANS HOLBEIN  
LENT BY MR. J. PIERPONT MORGAN